State of California
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
LOS ANGELES REGION

ORDER NO. 98-070

ISSUANCE OF A TIME SCHEDULE DIRECTING THE CITY OF LOS ANGELES TO COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS PRESCRIBED IN ORDER NO. 98-046 (Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant) (NPDES PERMIT NO. CA0056227)

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (hereafter Regional Board), finds:

1. The City of Los Angeles (hereafter City or Discharger) owns and operates the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant (hereafter Tillman Plant or Plant) which discharges wastewater under Waste Discharge Requirements (WDRs) contained in Order No. 98-046 adopted by this Regional Board on June 15, 1998. Order No. 98-046 also serves as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit (NPDES No. CA0056227).

2. The Tillman Plant, located at 6100 Woodley Avenue, Van Nuys, California, is a tertiary wastewater treatment plant, that treats municipal wastewater from domestic, commercial, and industrial sources. The plant's treatment design capacity is 80 million gallons per day (mgd). In 1997, the average annual flow was 56 mgd.

3. The Tillman Plant discharges the treated wastewater, that is not diverted for reuse, to the Los Angeles River, a water of the United States, at a point about 878 feet downstream of the Sepulveda Dam Spillway (Discharge Serial No. 008: Latitude 34^{o} 09' 54", Longitude 118^{o} 28' 15"), above the river estuary.

   The City is currently using reclaimed water to maintain the Japanese Garden, the recreation lake (Lake Balboa), and the Wildlife Lake. The wildlife and recreation lakes are operated and maintained by the City's Department of Recreation and Parks.

   Up to 17 mgd of reclaimed water has been used in the 27.5 acre Lake Balboa. The reclaimed water is discharged from the Tillman Plant to the lake at southeast corner of Victory and Balboa Boulevards, Los Angeles, (Discharge Serial No. 002: Latitude 34^{o} 10' 38", Longitude 118^{o} 28' 20"). The reclaimed water flows through the lake and eventually discharges through weirs, spillways, and a bottom drain to three outfalls: at Bull Creek (Lake Discharge Serial No. 004), Hayvenhurst Channel (Lake Discharge Serial No. 005), and Los Angeles River (Lake Discharge Serial No. 006). Bull Creek and Hayvenhurst Channel are tributaries to the Los Angeles River above the estuary.

   Up to 5 mgd of reclaimed water has been used for the Wildlife Lake and approximately 2 mgd in Haskell Flood Control Channel during September through May. The reclaimed

water flows by gravity to the Wildlife Lake located northeast of Burbank Boulevard and Woodley Avenue (Discharge Serial No. 003: Latitude 34° 10' 38", Longitude 118° 28' 20"). The reclaimed water flows through the 10 acre Wildlife Lake and is discharged to the Haskell Flood Control Channel, thence to the Los Angeles River, above the estuary.

4. Regional Board Order No. 98-046 contains, in part, the following effluent limitations:

Constituent	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum
Nitrite-N	mg/L	--	1
Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	µg/L	--	4
Copper[1]	µg/L	11	17
Cyanide	µg/L	5.2	22
Dieldrin	µg/L	0.0019	2.5
DDT[2]	µg/L	0.001	1.1
Lindane	µg/L	0.08	0.2

Footnotes:

[1] Concentrations expressed as total recoverable metals, and corresponded to a total hardness of 100 mg/L and water effect ratio of 1.0. For other conditions, the limits can be calculated byfollowing 40 CFR §131.36(b)(2) and/or a water effect ratio study according to USEPA guidance documents and/or state protocols, if applicable.

[2] DDT shall mean the sum of the p,p' and o,p' isomers of DDT, DDD, and DDE.

5. The Tillman Plant can not achieve immediate compliance with the above mentioned effluent limits for nitrite, copper, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, cyanide, and DDT. Therefore, interim limits which are based on the Tillman Plant performance and compliance schedules are provided in this Order.

6. Fishing has been allowed in Lake Balboa. Federal Water Quality Criteria have been established for DDT, dieldrin, and lindane to protect human health and welfare for consumption of freshwater aquatic organisms. The Tillman Plant may not be able to achieve compliance with the Federal Criteria for DDT, dieldrin, and lindane shown below. Therefore, this Order provides for interim limits for DDT (based on past effluent data) and for dieldrin and lindane (based on water quality criteria for protection of freshwater aquatic life). The Order further requires the City to undertake studies to evaluate fish tissue uptake of DDT, dieldrin, and lindane.

Constituent	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum

Dieldrin[1]	ng/L	0.14	--
DDT	ng/L	0.59	--
Lindane	ng/L	63	--

[1] If the constituent limit is less than the method detection limit (MDL), compliance with the constituent limit shall be based on the PQL (Practical Quantitation Level). PQL shall be determined by multiplying the USEPA method detection limit (MDL) or the Discharger's performance MDL approved by the Executive Officer, with the factors five (5) for carcinogens or non-classified compounds, and ten (10) for noncarcinogens.

7. The City has proposed a plan with a logical sequence of actions to achieve full compliance with effluent waste discharge requirements. The first phase of the Plan would be to investigate the sources in the collection system of the high levels of contaminants. If the sources can be identified, source reduction measures will be instituted. If the sources can not be identified, a decision will then be made to identify if it is appropriate to conduct a study for Site Specific Objectives, a Use Attainability Assessment, or to construct treatment facilities.

8. The California Water Code Section 13300 states:

"Whenever a regional board finds that a discharge of waste is taking place or threatening to take place that violates or will violate requirements prescribed by the regional board, or the state board, or that the waste collection, treatment, or disposal facilities of a discharger are approaching capacity, the board may require the discharger to submit for approval of the board, with such modifications as it may deem necessary, a detailed time schedule of specific actions the discharger shall take in order to correct or prevent a violation of requirements."

9. This enforcement action is being taken for the protection of the environment and as such is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code, Section 21100, et.seq.) in accordance with Section 15321, Chapter 3, Title 14, Code of California Regulations.

The Board notified the discharger and interested agencies and persons of its intent to adopt a time schedule concerning violations or threatened violations of waste discharge requirements.

The Board, in a public hearing, heard and considered all testimony pertinent to this matter. All Orders referred to above and records of hearings and testimony therein are included herein by reference.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that, pursuant to the California Water Code Section 13300, the City of Los Angeles, as operator of the Donald C. Tillman Water Reclamation Plant, shall:

1. Comply immediately with the following interim effluent limits:

Constituent	Units	Monthly Average	Daily Maximum

Bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate	µg/L	--	21
Nitrite-N	mg/L	--	2[2]
Copper	µg/L	61[1,3]	61
Cyanide	µg/L	47[1,3]	47
DDT	µg /L	0.037[1,3]	--

Footnotes:

[1] Interim effluent limits were derived statistically using effluent performance data from January 1993 through December 1997. Effluent values (x_i) are assumed to be lognormally distributed. The use of logarithmic transformation equation, $Y_j = \text{Ln}(x_j)$, results in effluent values (Y_i) that are normally distributed. Interim effluent limits are determined using the mean (u_n) and the standard deviation (σ_n) of the distribution of the average using the equation:

$$x_{95th} = \exp [u_n + (Z_{0.95})\, \sigma_n)\,]$$

where
x_{95th} = Discharge effluent quality performance goal at the 95th percentile of the normal distribution.
u_n = Mean distribution of the average (transformed).
$Z_{0.95}$ = Z-value from the Table of Areas under the Standard Normal Curve: equal to 1.645 at 95 percent.
σ_n = Standard deviation of the average transformed.
Exp is an exponential to the base "e" value = 2.7183

[2] The nitrite-n interim effluent limit will provide the City with treatment flexibility while conducting pilot studies and implementation of projects to reduce nitrogen in their effluent.

[3] For copper, cyanide, and DDT, the interim effluent limit for monthly average is the same as the interim effluent limit for daily maximum due to the limited effluent data available.

2. Due to the Federal Water Quality Criteria, during discharge into Lake Balboa and if fish and aquatic organisms from Lake Balboa are consumed by the public, monthly average limitations for DDT, dieldrin, and lindane shall not exceed 0.59 ng/l, 0.14 ng/l, and 63 ng/l, respectively.

However, the City has the option to conduct a study to evaluate fish tissue uptake. A preliminary fish tissue and risk assessment study shall be submitted to the Regional Board by April 1, 1999, with a detailed fish tissue and risk assessment submitted to the Regional Board by October 1, 2000.

For discharges to Lake Balboa, the City shall comply with the following interim limits: 0.037 ug/l for DDT, and the established discharge limitations of 0.0019 ug/l (monthly average) and 2.5 ug/l (daily maximum) for dieldrin, and the established discharge limitations of 0.08 ug/l (monthly average) and 0.2 ug/l (daily maximum) for lindane.

3. The interim limit for nitrite-N limit shall be in effect until June 30, 2002. After this effective date, the City shall achieve full compliance with the effluent limitation for nitrite-N.

4. For other compounds (copper, cyanide, bis(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate, DDT, dieldrin, and lindane), the City shall complete the source identification study by October 1, 2000 and achieve full compliance with the following conditions:

   a) comply with the effluent limits listed in Order No. 98-046 through the source reduction prior to October 1, 2002; or

   b) comply prior to October 1, 2002, with the revised limits, if any, that are based on such approved Site Specific Objectives or revised beneficial uses from Use Attainability Analyses, as approved by the Regional Board; or

   c) comply with the effluent limits listed in Order No. 98-046 by treatment prior to October 3, 2006.

5. The Discharger shall submit quarterly progress reports to describe the progress of studies and/or actions undertaken to reduce these compounds in the effluent, and to achieve compliance with the limits in Order No. 98-046 by the above mentioned deadline. Progress reports shall be submitted by the first day of the second month following the quarterly period with the first progress report due by February 1, 1999.

6. If the City fails to comply with any provisions of this Order, the Executive Officer is directed to issue an Administrative Civil Liability Complaint pursuant to California Water Code Section 13323. The Regional Board may also refer the case to the Attorney General for injunction and civil monetary remedies, pursuant to California Water Code Sections 13331 and 13385.

7. The action taken by this Board pertaining to the time schedule does not preclude the possibility of actions to enforce the permit by third parties pursuant to Section 505 of the Federal Clean Water Act.

8. The Board may reopen this matter by the request of the Discharger.

I, Dennis Dickerson, Executive Officer, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a full, true and correct copy of an order adopted by the California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region, on September 14, 1998.

DENNIS DICKERSON

Executive Officer

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